

Amended Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (New) A control system, comprising:

a computing device providing a first control function within the control system,

a plurality of field devices,

at least one of the field devices providing a second control function within the control system,

a control subsystem communicatively coupled to the computing device, the control subsystem comprising:

a bus,

a plurality of modules that are coupled to the bus and that each comprise a housing,
and

at least a first module comprising a controller,

at least a second module interfacing one or more of the field devices,

at least a third module interfacing to the field device that provides the second control function.

3. (New) The control system according to claim 2, wherein the computing device downloads programs and data to the control subsystem.

4. (New) A control system according to claim 2, comprising a support member that is adapted to mount to any of a wall and a DIN rail, at least one module being mechanically coupled to the support member.

5. (New) A control system according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the field devices comprises a sensor.

6. (New) A control system according to claim 2, wherein the bus is a multidrop bus.

7. (New) A control system, comprising

a network,

a first control device that is coupled to the network,

a second control device that is coupled to network for communication with at least the first control device,

one or more field devices,

at least one of the field devices comprising a third control device,

the second control device comprising

a bus,

a control processor that is coupled to the bus,

one or more modules that are coupled to the bus for communication with at least the control processor,

at least one of the modules comprising a housing, and

at least one of the modules being adapted to serve as an interface to at least one field device,

at least one of the modules serving as an interface to, and controlling, the field device that comprises the third control device,

the first control device being configured to control the second control device.

8. (New) A control system according to claim 7, comprising a support member that is adapted to mount to any of a wall and a DIN rail, at least one of the modules being mechanically coupled to the support member.
9. (New) A control system according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the field devices comprises a sensor.
10. (New) A control system according to claim 7, wherein the bus is a multidrop bus.
11. (New) A control system, comprising
 - a first control device and a second control device,
 - the first control device comprising
 - a bus,
 - a plurality of modules that are coupled to the bus,
 - at least one of the modules comprising a control processor,
 - at least one other of the modules adapted to provide an interface to a field device,
 - at least one of the other modules serving as an interface to a field device that comprises the second control device,
 - a computing device that is coupled to the first control device via a network, the computing device being configured to download programs to the first control device.
12. (New) A control system according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the other modules includes interface logic that comprises a PCMCIA card.
13. (New) According to claim 12, wherein the interface logic further comprises
 - an interface controller in communication with the PCMCIA card, and

an external connector in communication with the PCMCIA card.

14. (New) A control system according to claim 11, wherein the second control device executes programming for process control.

15. (New) A control system according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises a PCMCIA card that is adapted for communications with the respective field device of that module.

16. (New) A control system, comprising

a first control device that is coupled to a workstation via a network, the first control device comprising

a bus,

a plurality of modules that are coupled to the bus,

at least one of the modules comprising a control processor,

at least one other of the modules adapted to provide an interface to a field device,

at least one of the other modules serving as an interface to a field device that comprises the second control device,

the workstation being configured to download programs to the first control device.

17. (New) A control system according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises interface logic that includes a PCMCIA card.

18. (New) According to claim 17, wherein the interface logic further comprises

an interface controller in communication with the PCMCIA card, and

an external connector in communication with the PCMCIA card.

19. (New) A control system according to claim 16, comprising a support member that is adapted to mount to any of a wall and a DIN rail, wherein at least one of the modules is mechanically coupled to the support member.
20. (New) A control system according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises a PCMCIA card that is adapted to serve as the interface to the respective field device of that module.
21. (New) A control system, comprising
- a computing device coupled to a network,
 - a first control device that is coupled to the computing device via the network, the first control device comprising
 - a bus,
 - a control processor that is coupled to the bus,
 - a plurality of modules that are coupled to the bus and that are adapted to serve as interfaces to field devices,
 - at least one of the modules serving as an interface to, and controlling, a device that includes a second control device,
 - wherein the computing device is configured to download programs to the first control device.
22. (New) A control system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises interface logic.
23. (New) A control system according to claim 22, wherein the interface logic comprises a PCMCIA card.
24. (New) According to claim 23, wherein the interface logic further comprises

an interface controller in communication with the PCMCIA card, and

an external connector in communication with the PCMCIA card.

25. (New) A control system according to claim 21, wherein wherein at least one of the other modules comprises a support member that is adapted to mount to a DIN rail.

26. (New) A control system according to claim 21, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises a PCMCIA card that is adapted to serve as the interface to the respective field device of that module.

27. (New) A control system, comprising

a first control device coupled to a network,

a second control device that is coupled to the first control device via the network, the second control device including

a control processor,

a plurality of modules that are coupled to one another and to the control processor by a bus, the modules being adapted to serve as interfaces to field devices,

at least one of the modules being adapted to serve as an interface to a field device that comprises a third control device.

28. (New) A control system according to claim 27, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises interface logic.

29. (New) A control system according to claim 28, wherein the interface logic comprises a PCMCIA card.

30. (New) According to claim 28, wherein the interface logic further comprises

an interface controller in communication with the PCMCIA card, and

an external connector in communication with the PCMCIA card.

31. (New) A control system according to claim 27, comprising a support member that is adapted to mount to any of a wall and a DIN rail, wherein at least one of the modules is coupled to the support.
32. (New) A control system according to claim 31, wherein the support member is adapted to mount to a DIN rail.
33. (New) A control system according to claim 27, wherein the second control device is adapted to control the third control device.
34. (New) A control system according to claim 27, wherein the second control device can be expanded to include further modules.
35. (New) A control system according to claim 27, wherein at least one of the other modules comprises a PCMCIA card that is adapted to serve as the interface to the respective field device of that module.